

the next generation of commercial fishermen. However, the need for such a program is very real. Daunting challenges, including the high cost of entry, financial risks, and limited entry-level opportunities, have made it harder than ever for young men and women to start a career in commercial fishing.

That is why we have introduced H.R. 1240, the Young Fishermen's Development Act, which is modeled after the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program. Our legislation seeks to support our nation's aspiring commercial fishermen by creating a competitive grant program at NOAA to support local training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives.

The bill would provide funding to entities that offer instruction in seamanship, navigation, electronics, safety, vessel maintenance, entrepreneurship, sustainable fishing, and other efforts related to the commercial fishing business. The heritage and economies of America's coastal communities are directly linked to our fisheries.

Help us ensure that the next generation of commercial fishermen is well prepared to sustainably harvest America's seafood by breaking down the many barriers facing young fishermen. I strongly support this bipartisan legislation and encourage all my colleagues to join me.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1240, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AERIAL INCURSION REPERCUSSION SAFETY ACT OF 2020

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5040) to direct the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to study the effects of drone incursions on wildfire suppression, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5040

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Aerial Incursion Repercussion Safety Act of 2020" or the "AIR Safety Act of 2020".

SEC. 2. STUDY ON EFFECTS OF DRONE INCURSIONS ON WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Director of the Bureau of Land Management, in consultation with the Chief of the Forest Service, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, and the National Association of State Foresters, shall conduct a study on the effects of drone incursions on the suppression of wildfires with respect to lands managed by the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture.

(b) STUDY CONTENTS.—In conducting the study required under subsection (a), the Director shall—

(1) determine, for each of the five most recently completed calendar years, the number of occurrences in which a drone incursion interfered with wildfire suppression and the effect of each such occurrence on—

(A) the length of time required to achieve complete suppression;

(B) the effectiveness of aerial firefighting responses; and

(C) the amounts expended by the Federal Government; and

(2) evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of various actions to prevent drone incursions, including—

(A) temporary flight restrictions of the Federal Aviation Administration; and

(B) the dissemination of education materials relating to the effects of drone incursions on wildfire suppression.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the findings of the study required under subsection (a) and any recommendations of the Director relating to such findings.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DRONE.—The term "drone" means an unmanned aircraft system, as defined in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code, owned by a private individual or entity.

(2) DRONE INCURSION.—The term "drone incursion" means the operation of a drone within any airspace for which the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration has issued a temporary flight restriction because of a wildfire.

(3) WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION.—The term "wildfire suppression" has the meaning given such term in section 46320(d) of title 49, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5040. This is a bipartisan bill introduced by my fellow committee member, Utah Congressman CURTIS, along with myself.

The Aerial Incursion Repercussion Safety Act, or the AIR Safety Act, requires the Director of BLM, in consultation with the Chief of the Forest Service, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the National Association of State Foresters, to conduct a study on the effects of drone incursion on wildfire suppression.

It is already a Federal crime to interfere with wildfire suppression efforts on public lands. In addition, the FAA

often implements temporary flight restrictions, or TFRs, around wildfires to prevent aircraft from getting involved and interfering with suppression operations.

Despite these deterrents, private drone incursions near wildfires continue to be documented as causes of delays in airborne firefighting response that can pose threats to firefighting on the ground, undermine ongoing suppression efforts, and allow wildfires to encroach on nearby communities.

There have been many examples of this, but I specifically remember, during the October 2017 firestorms in Sonoma County, in my district, we received multiple reports of private drones interfering with firefighting helicopters and air tankers, forcing them to stay grounded for the safety of the Cal Fire pilots during the critical days when we needed them in the air.

This bill would raise awareness of the impacts of drone incursions on wildland fire suppression while examining ways to avoid future incursions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, September 1, 2020.

Hon. COLIN PETERSON,
Chair, Committee on Agriculture,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR PETERSON: I write to you concerning H.R. 5040, the "AIR Safety Act of 2019."

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation. I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture. I acknowledge that your Committee will not formally consider H.R. 5040 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your Committee's Rule X jurisdiction.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to working with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

RAUL M. GRIJALVA,
Chair,
House Natural Resources Committee.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, DC, December 1, 2020.

Hon. RAUL M. GRIJALVA,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN. This letter confirms our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 5040, the AIR Safety Incursion Act of 2020. Thank you for collaborating with the Committee on Agriculture on the matters within our jurisdiction.

The Committee on Agriculture will forego any further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration. However, by foregoing consideration at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over any subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. We request that our Committee be consulted and involved as this bill moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in

our jurisdiction. The Committee on Agriculture also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation and ask that you support any such request.

We would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 5040, and request that a copy of our letters on this matter be published in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,

COLIN C. PETERSON,

Chair.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5040, the AIR Safety Act, authored by Congressman JOHN CURTIS from Utah. This is a simple bill that will improve our ability to fight the wildfires that have continued to wreak havoc in our Western States.

Although laws exist prohibiting interference with wildfire fighting, many people still fly their private drones near fires to take pictures and videos.

Unauthorized drones flying in these areas can cause all aerial firefighting tools, including helicopters dropping flame retardant, to be grounded, which wastes valuable time and money that could otherwise be used to suppress the fire and save lives and property.

The AIR Safety Act directs our land management agencies to study drone incursions over the past 5 years and mandates that the agencies develop better strategies to prevent drones from interfering in firefighting activities in the first place.

In the wake of yet another devastating wildfire season, it is critical that we do everything we can to empower our brave wildland firefighters with the tools they need to safely and quickly respond to fires. This bipartisan bill is a small but important step toward achieving that goal.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CURTIS), who introduced the bill and has sponsored it, along with the bipartisan sponsorship of Mr. HUFFMAN.

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman GRIJALVA and Ranking Member BISHOP for helping us move this bill along. Special thanks to my cosponsor, who shares a not-so-unique problem in our districts of wildfires and fighting those.

Mr. Speaker, I obviously rise in support of the AIR Safety Act, which will examine risks and effects of drone incursions on wildland firefighting.

In the last few years, Utah and the rest of the West have been battling extreme wildfires. Our Federal land managers and State and local partners need every tool available to them to put these fires out.

When a wildfire breaks out, the FAA sets up a temporary flight restriction, or TFR, around the perimeter to allow

aerial firefighters full access to the fire.

Unfortunately, when people ignore these TFRs and fly their drones around the fire, fire management must ground their own drones and helicopters until the area is clear. This wastes valuable time and money, putting structures and, most importantly, lives at risk.

The AIR Safety Act will direct the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, FAA, and State forestry partners to examine these risks and come up with ways to stop future problems.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I request an "aye" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5040, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 965, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY MODIFICATION ACT

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5458) to modify the boundary of the Rocky Mountain National Park, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5458

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Rocky Mountain National Park Boundary Modification Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) MAP.—The term "map" means the map entitled "Rocky Mountain National Park Proposed Boundary Revision", numbered 121/154.327, and dated June 2019.

(2) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The term "non-Federal land" means the approximately 40 acres of non-Federal land depicted as "TR 05-133" on the map.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.

(a) LAND ACQUISITION.—The Secretary may acquire, by donation, the non-Federal land for inclusion in the Rocky Mountain National Park.

(b) BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.—On acquisition of the non-Federal land under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) modify the boundary of the Rocky Mountain National Park to include the acquisition; and

(2) administer the acquired land as part of the Rocky Mountain National Park, in accordance with applicable laws.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5458, the Rocky Mountain National Park Boundary Modification Act, the first of two bills introduced by my Colorado colleague, Representative JOE NEGUSE.

This bill would modify the boundary of Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park to include approximately 40 acres of non-Federal land that former U.S. astronaut Vance Brand hopes to donate to the park.

This 40-acre tract will provide enhanced protections for the park's high-elevation ecosystems and would increase recreational access and connectivity by providing a natural buffer between private lands and three popular trails.

Rocky Mountain National Park is home to many of our Nation's most treasured landscapes, and I commend Representative NEGUSE for his efforts to expand and enhance protections for this park.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5458 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to acquire, by donation only, approximately 40 acres of non-Federal land for inclusion in Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado.

As many of you may know, Rocky Mountain National Park is one of the crown jewels of our National Park System.

The land to be donated is directly adjacent to the current park boundary and was recently donated to the Rocky Mountain Conservancy. The land being donated is entirely undeveloped, so it won't increase the deferred maintenance of the National Park Service in any way.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.